U.S.-Spanish Pact On Military Bases Extended 5 Years

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WASHINGTON, March 26—The United States and Spain announced agreement in principle today to extend for five more years the United States' military base rights in Spain.

Robert J. McCloskey, the State Department spokesman, made the announcement this evening. He said that Secretary of State William P. Rogers and the Spanish Foreign Minister, Fernando María Castiella y Maíz, had "reached agreement in principle on the nature of the arrangements for the new five-year period of the defense agreement, which, both Governments agree, should take place subject to the completion of the negotiations of the written documents that will express such arrangements."

The agreement was reached yesterday in private talks between Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Fernando Maria Castiella y Maiz, the Spanish Foreign Minister, according to the informants.

The military, economic and

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BASIS OF PACT SET BY U.S. AND SPAIN

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political assistance that the United States will ultimately furnish Spain in return for the "joint" defense facilities will be the subject of protracted bargaining in the coming months.

Foreign Minister Castiella, who flew here over the weekend, proposed the extension of the negotiations yesterday, it was said, and his offer was immediately agreed to by Mr. Rogers. Mr. Castiella stressed that Spain wisned to continue close defense cooperation with the United States.

Today Mr. Castiella, spent nearly an hour with President Nixon and several of his advisers. The Spanish official, who is of Basque origin and who likes to recall that he had a grandmother born in Texas, took pains to deny reports that Spain was turning isolationist.

Following the meeting, other sources said that Mr. Nixon had selected Robert C. Hill, a former Ambassador to Mexico Costa Rica and Salvador, and Ambassador to Madrid. Mr. Hill a former executive of W. R Grace & Co., served as an assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations during the Eisenhower Administration He will succeed Robert F. Wagner, former Mayor of New York, who recently resigned.

Silent on Amount

In an interview in the Spanish Embassy here, Mr. Castiella declined to forecast the amounts of the value of United States military hardware — jet aircraft, Hawk antiaircraft missiles, radar picket ships, tanks and other materiel—that Spain was seeking or expected to receive.

Last summer United States sources put the original requests at $1.2-billion — later reduced to $700-million before the talks were broken off. The United States offer, it was stated, had been approximately $140-million in fresh arms over the next five years, plus military and other economic benefits.

Speaking in Spanish, Mr. Castiella said that after the September breakdown he agreed with the then Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, to continue the recessed talks at the military level in Madrid. In December United States and Spanish military representatives began negotiations.

However, he indicated, the latest United States offer — which he declined to discuss— was communicated to Spanish officials only last Friday, five days before the end of the six-month grace period provideed under the agreements. That left the Spanish negotiators with too little time for adequate response, he indicated.

Had the two Governments not agreed to continue talking, Spain would have been entitled today to request that the United States to remove its materiel and 15,000 servicemen and families within a year from the $500-million complex of bases.